



CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMITS
OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS
Civil Society Hemispheric Forum
March 3-4, 2009
Ruben Dario Room - 1889 F Street NW, 20006
Washington, D.C.

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AGENDA

CIVIL SOCIETY HEMISPHERIC FORUM IN PREPARATION FOR THE OAS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AND THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

(March 3-4, 2009 - Washington, D.C.)

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I. Introduction

The Thirty-Ninth Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, to be held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras on May 31 - June 2, 2009 will focus on the central theme “Toward a Culture of Nonviolence.” On this occasion, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas will discuss and adopt resolutions related to the four pillars of the OAS, including strengthening democracy, integral development, multidimensional security and the promotion and protection of human rights.

The objective of the *Civil Society Hemispheric Forum* is to stimulate discussion and the exchange of ideas among civil society organizations (CSO) that actively monitor OAS activities as they relate to the inter-American agenda and the implementation of Summits of the Americas mandates. Furthermore, the goal of the *Hemispheric Forum* is to present the recommendations generated by civil society to OAS Member States in order to contribute to the work the OAS undertakes in preparation for the Thirty-Ninth Regular Session of the General Assembly and the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

II. Objective

The Hemispheric Forum will provide civil society organizations with an opportunity to formalize and compile their recommendations to be presented for the consideration of OAS Member States. The *Civil Society Hemispheric Forum* seeks to build on the current momentum in the relationship between civil society participation and the OAS and to benefit from the multifaceted resources of civil society in the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of the mandates emanating from the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Declaration of San Pedro Sula and the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain.

The expected results of the Hemispheric Forum are:

1. Generate recommendations from civil society organizations regarding the themes that will be discussed during the XXXIX OAS General Assembly and the Fifth Summit of the Americas. These recommendations will be presented to OAS Member States, National Summit Coordinators, the National Secretariat of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, and the General Secretariat of the OAS.
2. Share experiences about the projects and programs executed by civil society in the support of policies developed by OAS Member States to combat poverty, strengthen democracy, ensure environmental sustainability, and strengthen security sustainable development in the Americas.

3. Present recommendations to strengthen civil society participation in OAS activities, and in the Summits of the Americas Process.

III. Civil Society Participation

The *Civil Society Hemispheric Forum* is open to the participation of all civil society organizations throughout the Americas. The Department of International Affairs and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Government of the United States of America, will facilitate the *Civil Society Hemispheric Forum* and cover the costs of airfare tickets of a determined number of civil society representatives to participate in the *Civil Society Hemispheric Forum*. As selection criteria, the Department of International Affairs will consider the requests for participation from interested organizations based on the following:

1. Equitable gender and geographic representation;
2. Relevant experience and background in the subject areas in question; and
3. The organization's association and affiliation with other resources and organizations in the hemisphere.

On March 4, 2009, civil society representatives will have the opportunity to engage OAS Member States during the *Special Session of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC)*. In order to lend continuity to the pursuit of mandates entrusted to it in the preceding term, including AG/RES. 2393 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2395 (XXXVIII-O/08), CP/RES. 840 (1361/03), and CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), this Special Session will be a unique opportunity for representatives of civil society to dialogue with Member States regarding civil society participation in the activities of the OAS.

In addition to the forum on the 3rd and 4th of March, on March 5th, 2009, the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) will hold a meeting with civil society on the Process of Reflection on the Inter-American System for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The objective of this meeting with the CAJP is to expand the dialogue among all the actors involved, particularly civil society organizations specializing in human rights in order to propose concrete actions to the reform process that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

IV. Logistics

The Civil Society Hemispheric Forum registration form should be filled out and sent to the Department of International Affairs no later than February 27, 2009, to facilitate registration procedures. Registration will take place at the OAS General Secretariat building at 1889 F Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20006 between 8:30am and 9:00am on March 3, 2009. Civil society representatives will be issued identification cards, which, for security reasons, must be displayed during the two-day event.

V. Working Languages

The proceedings of the Civil Society Hemispheric Forum will be conducted in Spanish and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in both languages.

VI. Reference Documents

With the objective of enriching the discussion in each thematic area of the Forum, it is suggested that participants familiarize themselves with the following documents:

- Draft Declaration of San Pedro Sula (when available)
- [Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain](#)
- [Intervention from Mr. Ángel Edmundo Orellana Mercado, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Honduras, before the Permanent Council – November 24, 2008](#) (Spanish only document)
- [Recommendations – South American Sub-Regional Civil Society Forum](#) (Lima Peru, February 6-7, 2009)
- [Recommendation – Central American Sub-Regional Civil Society Forum](#) (San Salvador, El Salvador, December 8-9, 2008)
- [Recommendations – Caribbean Sub-Regional Civil Society Forum](#) (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, October 30-31, 2008)
- [Summary of the Priority Areas of the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain](#)
- [Inter-American Democratic Charter](#)

March 3, 2009

Rubén Darío Room, OAS Headquarters, 1889 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 (8th Floor)

- 8:30am **Registration** (8th Floor)
- 9:00 – 9:30am **Inaugural Session**
- Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General, OAS
 - Glenda Morean-Phillip, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the OAS and Chair of the CISC
 - Osmar Chohfi, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the OAS and Chair of the Permanent Council
 - Irene Klinger, Secretary for External Relations, *a.i.* and Director of the Department of International Affairs, OAS
- 9:30 – 10:00am **Nonviolence and Multidimensional Security**
- Carlos Sosa, Permanent Representative of Honduras to the OAS
 - Gustavo Albin, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS
 - Alvaro Ramirez Durini, Coordinator for Latin America and Caribbean, Nonviolent Peaceforce
- 10:00 – 11:00am Working Groups
 Group 1: Ruben Darío Room
 Group 2: Room 804 (English)
 Group 3: Room 704
 Group 4: Room 604
- 11:00 – 11:30am Presentation of Working Group Conclusions and Compilation of Recommendations (Rubén Darío Room)
- 11:30am – 12:00pm **Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability**
- Nestor Mendez, Permanent Representative of Belize to the OAS
 - Arístides Royo, Permanent Representative of Panama to the OAS
 - Linda Shaffer, Project Manager of The Access Initiative, World Resources Institute
- 12:00 – 1:00pm Working Groups
 Group 1: Rubén Darío Room
 Group 2: Room 804 (English)
 Group 3: Room 704
 Group 4: Room 604
- 1:00 – 2:00pm **Lunch**

- 2:00 – 2:30pm Presentation of Working Group Conclusions and Compilation of Recommendations (Rubén Darío Room)
- 2:30 – 3:00pm **Human Prosperity**
- Roy Chaderton Matos, Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the OAS
 - Izben C. Williams, Permanent Representative of St. Kitts and Nevis to the OAS
 - Marianela de Castellero, Director, Vital Voices Global Partnership – Panama
- 3:00 – 4:00pm Working Groups
Group 1: Rubén Darío Room
Group 2: Room 804 (English)
Group 3: Room 704
Group 4: Room 604
- 4:00 – 5:30pm Presentation of Working Group Conclusions and Compilation of Recommendations (Rubén Darío Room)
- 5:30 – 6:00pm **Consolidation and Compilation of Civil Society Recommendations:**
Nonviolence and Multidimensional Security, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability, and Human Prosperity

March 4, 2009

Rubén Darío Room, OAS Headquarters, 1889 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 (8th Floor)

- 9:00 – 9:30am **Strengthening Democracy and Promoting of Human Rights**
- María del Luján Flores, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the OAS
 - Susan R. Johnson, Senior Coordinator for Democracy Promotion, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) of the State Department of the United States of America
 - Viviana Krsticevic, Executive Director, Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
- 9:30 – 10:30am Working Groups
Group 1: Rubén Darío Room
Group 2: Room 804 (English)
Group 3: Room 704
Group 4: Room 604
- 10:30 – 11:15am Presentation of Working Group Conclusions and Compilation of civil society Recommendations (Rubén Darío Room)

- 11:15 – 11:30am Coffee Break
- 11:30am – 12:15pm **Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities and the Summits of the Americas Process**
- Graeme C. Clark, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OAS
 - Pedro Oyarce, Permanent Representative of Chile to the OAS
 - Andrea Sanhueza, Executive Director, Corporación Participa
- 12:15 – 1:30pm Dialogue with Civil Society
- 1:30 – 2:30pm **Lunch**
- Padilha Vidal Room, OAS Headquarters, 1889 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 (Terrace Level)**
- 2:30 – 5:00pm **Special Session of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC)**
- Welcoming Addresses
 - Albert R. Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General, OAS
 - Glenda Morean-Phillip, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the OAS and Chair of the CISC
 - Presentation of civil society recommendations relating to the theme of the XXXIX OAS General Assembly
 - Presentation of civil society recommendations relating to the theme of the Fifth Summit of the Americas
 - Presentation of civil society recommendations from subregional forums
 - Presentations from civil society networks working in the area of Summit follow up
 - Active Democracy: Citizen Network for Governmental Compliance with the Summits
 - The Access Initiative
 - Interventions from OAS Member States
 - Closing Remarks